

STATE OF IDAHO



COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

JULY 1, 1978 – JUNE 30, 1979



STATE OF IDAHO

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



416 Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
(208) 667-0322

STATEHOUSE
BOISE, IDAHO 83720
(208) 384-3220

P.O. Box 4142
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
(208) 233-7171

September, 1979

HISATOMI MIYASAKI, Chairman
P. O. Box 205
Sugar City, ID 83448

DR. NORMAN D. GARDNER, Member
8265 Valley View Drive
Boise, ID 83704

LARRY B. BARNES, Member
5120 Sorrento Drive
Boise, ID 83704

All Members are appointed for a
three year term by the Governor,
with confirmation by the Senate.

Hisatomi Miyasaki - Term ends June 30, 1980
Norman D. Gardner - Term ends June 30, 1981
Larry B. Barnes - Term ends June 30, 1982

HOWARD H. BARTON, JR., Administrator
Commission For The Blind
Statehouse
Boise, ID 83720

Phone: (208) 384-3220

Total number of employees Fiscal Year 1978 - 28

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



STATE OF IDAHO

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ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Commission for the Blind herewith presents its Annual Report and Program Evaluation for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 1978 and ending June 30, 1979.

Our ability to serve and our productivity is the result of a dedicated staff and the support of other governmental entities and private organizations concerned with improving the social and economic status of the blind.

The Commission for the Blind extends particular recognition for assistance to Governor Evans and the Executive Office of the Governor, the First Regular Session of the Forty-Fifth Idaho Legislature, volunteer tapists and readers, the volunteer cassette and talking book machine repairmen, Idaho Lions Clubs, the Idaho-Oregon Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, Inc., and organizations of the blind such as the Blind Veterans Association, National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, and others.

The Commission for the Blind appreciates all of the assistance it has received and looks forward to an even more productive year affecting positively the lives of more blind Idahoans than ever before.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard H. Barton, Jr.".

HOWARD H. BARTON, JR.
Administrator
Commission for the Blind

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ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Commission for the Blind is a part of the Executive Office of the Governor. A three-member lay board appointed by the Governor is responsible for programs of the Commission. The Act establishing the Commission and its duties is Section 67-5401 through 67-5413 of the Idaho Code. It reads in Section 1, Purposes of the Act: "(1) To relieve blind persons from the distress of poverty; (2) To encourage and assist blind persons in their efforts to become socially and economically independent and to render themselves more self-supporting; and (3) To enlarge the opportunities of blind persons to obtain education, vocational training, and employment."

The Commission for the Blind is authorized to negotiate with the Federal Government for Federal funds on a matching formula of 20% State, 80% Federal dollars, used for rehabilitation services provided the blind.

The purpose of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is to provide a statutory basis for the Rehabilitation Services Administration and to authorize programs to (1) "develop and implement comprehensive and continuing State Plans for meeting the current and future needs for providing vocational rehabilitation services to handicapped individuals and to provide such services for the benefit of such individuals serving first those with the most severe handicaps so that they may prepare for and engage in gainful employment." Other stated purposes include evaluation, independence, self-sufficiency, expanding employment opportunities, basically the concern to improve barriers impeding handicapped individuals. Further, within the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the section dealing with definitions states "The term 'severe handicap' means the disability which requires multiple services over an extended period of time and results from amputation, blindness, cancer, cerebral palsy." - - -

Those citizens of Idaho who are legally blind are, by definition, severely handicapped and it is expected when they are served by the Commission for the Blind that they will receive the kinds of rehabilitation services which enable them to become employed or function independently within their own homes and communities. It is reasonable to expect that in providing services to the blind, many attitudes which are less than positive about blindness must be changed. This means changing the public attitude whether that public is educator, employer, professional, legislator, and/or the blind themselves. To accomplish the goal of changing the public attitude about blindness, to assist the blind of Idaho achieve independence, and to help them find employment, the Commission continues to serve in increasing numbers the blind of Idaho.

"Public Law 95-602 Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978", or commonly referred to as the 1978 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is short on statement of purpose but long on intent to serve the disabled of this country and serve them with the kinds of service which lead to independence.

The declaration of purpose reads, "The purpose of this Act is to develop and implement, through research, training, services, and the guarantee of equal opportunity, comprehensive and coordinated programs of vocational rehabilitation and independent living." This means in addition to the traditional rehabilitation services, is added such responsibilities of comprehensive services for independent living which means any appropriate vocational rehabilitation service and "any other service that will enhance the ability of a handicapped individual to live independently and function within his family and community and, if appropriate, secure and maintain appropriate employment." The list of services is comprehensive and considers the needs of the least to the most critically severe disability. What do we do with or about Independent Living Centers, the establishment, staffing, the service? What about Independent Living Services to the Older Blind? These and numerous issues of the new rehabilitation legislation need our consideration.

During Fiscal Year 1979, sixteen persons were provided intensive training in the Orientation Center in Boise. The length of time one is in Orientation is usually 9 to 12 months, varying with the individual. The Chief of Orientation and five staff members provide instruction in Braille, home economics, typing, cane travel, and industrial arts. These Orientation students are also involved in field trips which may be cutting wood, swimming and picnicking, visiting programs for the blind in other states, and contacting State Legislators and public agencies. These activities and discussions which stem from them help the blind to believe one can be self-supporting, and believe and demonstrate the equality of the blind to fellow Idahoans.

During Fiscal Year 1979 the Field Service staff, consisting of the Chief of Field Services and eight Field Service Representatives (four of whom provide counseling and four home instruction) continued the Commission's history of contacting and providing rehabilitation service to more blind individuals than in years past. There is a Regional Office in Pocatello serving Southeastern Idaho and one in Coeur d'Alene serving Northern Idaho. There are two field service personnel and a clerk in each of the offices.

The Boise office serves the general areas of Twin Falls and Boise, and the general area between McCall and Mountain Home. The blind of Idaho who are referred to the Commission are contacted regularly by counselors who explain the rehabilitation services available and help the blind achieve their desired goals. Our home teachers provide instruction in Braille, cane travel, home economics

and the philosophy of blindness to blind individuals in their own homes. Through the efforts of the field representatives for the blind personnel and our job placement person, we have successfully placed in employment 57 individuals who have been employed sixty days and an additional 13 individuals who are working but as yet not completed the sixty day period of employment to be considered successfully closed. The employed blind of Idaho during Fiscal Year 1979 represent 13.6 percent of the 417 individuals who actually received the full range of services the Commission for the Blind is accountable to deliver, which includes diagnostic prevention of blindness, counseling and training for the eligible blind, and job placement. The weekly income of those receiving wages as a result of Commission services range from \$40 to \$375. The employment of blind persons or their functioning independently in their own homes helps change the attitude of the public as to the abilities and equality of our blind citizens.

Following is a complete list by occupation and salary of blind persons rehabilitated by the Commission for the Blind during Fiscal Year 1979:

OCCUPATION	WEEKLY WAGE
Craft Store Proprietor	\$325.00
Logger	300.00
Beautician	98.00
Secretary	172.00
Toy Store Proprietor	200.00
Social Worker	313.00
Home Attendant	88.00
Computer Programmer	300.00
Vending Stand Operator	275.00
Vending Stand Operator	100.00
Accountant	290.00
Recreational Therapist	125.00
Hair Stylist	130.00
Teacher/Counselor	250.00
Nursing Home Program Developer	125.00
Physical Therapist	269.00
Vending Stand Operator	200.00
Health & Welfare Receptionist	156.00
Field Representative	254.00
Kindergarten Operator	100.00
Travel Agent	106.00
Janitor/Materials Handler	141.60
Telephone Operator	102.00
Assembly Line Worker	132.00
Foster Grandparent	40.00
Telephone Operator	142.00
Receptionist	111.00
Interim Pastor	75.00
Cama Board Operator	150.00
WIN program	116.00
Vending Stand Operator	150.00
Apartment Manager	375.00

HOMEMAKERS

There were 24 Homemakers closed.

UNPAID FAMILY WORKER

There was one unpaid family worker closed.

NOTE: The names of all the foregoing clients were omitted since Federal and State laws do not permit release of this confidential information.

As part of the services provided during Fiscal Year 1979, the following numbers of sound reproducers for the Library Service program were issued: Talking book machines = 173. Cassette playback units = 178.

During the last two months of 1978 and the first six months of 1979, the vending stand program has enlarged with five new operators and three new locations, for a total of ten locations within the state at the present time. By 1980 the program will have thirteen separate operations. If this increase is to be maintained and the Commission for the Blind is to provide continued service and new job opportunities, some kind of support staff is desperately needed.

The cafeteria in the basement of the Commission for the Blind building will be opened for business in October of 1979. A cafeteria was opened August, 1979 in the new EG&G Building in Idaho Falls, and a new Snack Bar was opened in Lewiston in July, 1979.

The staff of the Commission for the Blind is dedicated to the philosophy of equality, opportunity, and independence for the blind and works earnestly to accomplish these goals in the most reasonable manner.

Perhaps in the final analysis one must consider what is said about the Commission for the Blind by those we provide services to. The answer is best given by the blind you know or with whom you have contact.

Following is a statement of Fiscal Year 1979
income and expenditures of the Commission for the
Blind:

INCOME

State Appropriation	\$302,660
Federal Funds	611,310
Cash Receipts	<u>36,396</u>
Total:	- \$950,366

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages	\$414,017
Personnel Benefits	80,476
Travel	52,735
Professional Services	3,865
Other Services	8,652
Communications	15,091
Utilities	18,148
Materials and Supplies	20,375
Rent	6,725
Repair and Maintenance	7,254
Miscellaneous Operating Expense	1,162
Capital Outlay (Equipment)	7,270
Trustee and Benefit Payments	<u>314,596</u>
Total:	- \$950,366*

* Includes encumbrances of \$122,776

